GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3034
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
TH PHALGUNA SAKA RAIDS OF CUSTOMS
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country-wide raids were conducted on retailers selling cheap Chinese goods by Customs squads;

(b) if so, whether the investigations by Customs establishes the nexus of traders based in Delhi, Calcutta and Bihar withthe hawala operators abroad;

(c) if so, whether it was also found that most of the contraband goods come to India via Nepal and even legal imports from Nepal under-invoiced;

(d) if so, whether funds channeled through hawala route is utilised to source goods from Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand consigned to Nepal from where it is re-exported; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check this rampant contraband traffic involving hawala operations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Yes, Sir. A special anti- smuggling operation involving country-wide raids was launched during November, 2000, in which contraband goods valued at Rs.5.87 crores originating from various countries such as China, Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia, Korea etc. were seized by the various field formations of the Customs Department.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): No, Sir. There is no evidence to suggest this.

(e): Field formations under the Customs Department, including DRI, are alert and vigilant to check smuggling of contraband goods.